

Campus Ministry Report 90-91

We had as our long term goal (A) and the following (B), (C), (D) as our short term goals spelled out in specific programs.

- A) To increase outreach to all areas of the University community;
- B) Increase involvement in student life;
- C) Develop new ways of meeting student needs;
- D) Continue to develop programs that foster concerns for social and ethical issues.

In our end of year evaluating meeting of May 6, we felt that we had been fairly successful in reaching these goals. This is especially satisfying in a year that was filled with renewed hope-filled energy of walls coming down around our Belmore House centre - (due to concert hall construction) and then dashed by the rumors since fulfilled of our move to West Broadway. Moves are always difficult the timing of this one wasn't in the least helpful. Our hope is that the new space will energize us for the coming year.

It has been a constant long term goal for the past couple of years to make our service available and involved in the diverse area of university life. Most of the programs had that component to some degree:

The following programs not only met (a) above but also fulfilled (b), (c) & (d) in various ways.

Our traditional Spirit of Christmas Fund not only involved student, faculty and staff in the organization and fund raising itself - the monies raised this year (\$6,000 +) has been focused exclusively on student needs. Food vouchers are available to students who come to us referred often by Health Services, Guidance and faculty. The decision to restrict to our university community was a consensus decision of the planning committee due to a felt student need intensified by the recession.

The Peer Helper Program - a student centered program that drew on the expertise of faculty, professional staff and generous, skilled students who took the training and launched the service to their peers. Truly a model of cooperative programming. In April twenty-six new Peer Helpers were selected for the coming year. The program will begin to extend on to Loyola campus this year.

The Pannenburg Conference, a major lecture series by one of Germany's great scholars not only brought together support from various faculties it also involved cooperation with McGill, U of M and UQAM as well as various Church groups in the city this culminating a major effort of inter-university cooperation as well as the community at large. The icing on the cake was the quality of the presentation and the involvement of the Montreal intellectual community which gathered, students, faculty & graduates at large.

Mexico Experience which was again engaged in this year was a program that drew university support at various levels but especially drew select students to partake in a unique educational experience that took them to Mexico to encounter there presenters on all aspects of Latin American Culture and Social Issues. This included hands on experience of various communities in their efforts to deal with the variety of social crisis they face.

Holy Week Services this year were co-ordinated by members of Campus Ministry Team and music provided by our Music Director and an absolutely wonderful presentation on Good Friday by a group of students from the Drama Department. This was all thought out, organized , directed and rehearsed by the students culminating in a profoundly touching spiritual experience. We were thrilled.

Other cooperative efforts included the Maude Barlow Lecture, the Jewish and Christian Fundamentalism Lectures, two discussion groups 1) Charles Taylor's Book "Sources of the Self" and 2) "A Gathering of Men" which included faculty students and staff.

Pastorally we worked cooperatively on the Memorial Services for Prof. Lambert and the Anniversary of Polytechnique. Marriages in the Chapel are numerous they also involve all areas of the community, students, faculty, staff and graduates. This service seems to meet a special need in a growing ecumenical and secular climate. The rich range of our ecumenical team greatly enables the flexibility of this service.

As can be seen from the above programs they not only met the long range goals but all included the short term goals of increased involvement in student life and/or developed new ways to meet student needs and/or involvement in ethical and social issues.

This last item perhaps needs a few words. These projects covered a broad area of concern. It also included involvement with various campus interest groups such as the Women's Centre, the Peace Institute, Latin American Students Association, The Central American Committee Muslim Students Association, Jewish Students Association, Student Coalition re: Gulf War and Prayer for Peace. Two of the ongoing projects that have always met student needs to understand some of the social ills of our city have been the Prison Visits and the Benedict Labre House suppers for the hungry of Montreal. We co-operated in the Ethics Day program and have facilitated use of our space for various groups such as AA and Alanon and other such groups that speak to the varied needs of the university community. We worked with Foreign Student office to co-ordinate a brunch for foreign students and follow up gatherings and home visits during holiday times. We also organized a reception for the Native Conference "Communities in Crisis". Workshops on the "Inner Child", communication skills, community building, Monastic Retreat; Skating with the Blind were also among the programs we initiated or co-operated with.

Academic Year 1991-92

Our long term objective remains the same i.e. A continued outreach to all areas of University Community.

It's short term expression:

- 1) To enlarge involvement in student life and student needs. Will be intensified in a number of areas such as contact with CUSA and such projects as student orientation, student government and associations as well as the newspaper and radio.
- 2) Informal meetings with students in the Hall building - a simple table and availability to sit and chat on various issues or concerns.
- 3) Thematic Retreats or days of Recollection focussed on e.g. the Homeless, the poor, the young street people, etc. and held in situ.
- 4) Gospel discussion groups on general Gospel themes.
- 5) Peer Helper will make effort to draw attention to sexual assault, date rape etc.
- 6) Pot Luck Suppers for foreign students, the lonely, the new students.
- 7) Discussion groups - Women in the Church?

Social and Ethical Programming:

- 1) Building various volunteer groups to visit and help with areas of social need in the community.
- 2) Inquiry into the source of some of our social and ethical crisis with the ongoing discussion groups - involving students faculty and staff. 1) "A Gathering of Men" 2) "Charles Taylor's Book Sources of the Self The making of a Modern Identity."

We have committed ourselves to special Ecumenical Service for homecoming and in this same spirit in co-operation with a new Baptist Associate in the NDG area will be offering a regular ecumenical service on the Loyola Campus and similar plans are underway for the Sir George Campus. One of our full time Chaplain's will be working downtown this year in order to expand our service and availability on that campus. In conjunction with these new initiatives we will continue with many of our traditional programs that have met the criteria of student need and student life and ethical and social concerns.